

The Jew in America

By Rabbi Martin Zielonka

His Achievements as Soldier, Statesman, Financier, and Patriot—A Jew Aided Columbus to Discover America.

IT MIGHT be well to say in the beginning that the Jew simply designates the follower of a certain faith, Judaism. No matter what faith you may now accept, the moment you openly confess your belief in the doctrines that are the peculiar heritage of the Jew, you will be admitted into the household of Israel. I have little sympathy with those who desire to place the Jew in a separate category, either as a separate nation or race. Regarding the former it need only be said that the Jew has no government of his own and consequently cannot be a distinct nation; as for those who would declare him a separate race, I would say that as long as ethnologists differ so widely as to the definition of this word, it is most difficult to so classify him. This subject has become more difficult since followers of the Jewish faith have been found in China and Abyssinia who cannot be distinguished in outward form from the native population.

In speaking of the Jew in America I am therefore speaking of the contribution of those who believe in the Jewish religion, just as you might speak of the contribution of the different Christian sects to the same. There is, however, this difference: If a member of the Jewish faith embraces the dominant faith, then it is only right that his acts be credited to the faith that he has adopted, since the new faith has had the power to affect his mind and actions; the deeds of his children, born and reared in different religious surroundings, have no place in the achievements of the Jew.

In order to start at the beginning we must study the facts surrounding the discovery of this continent. In order to place a limit to the scope of this paper I must confine myself to the United States.

Not Jewels but Jews Helped Columbus. The popular legend about the queen of Spain purchasing her Jewels in order to make the trip of Columbus possible is beautiful and pathetic but it is not true. It is a fact that his own money from the sale of some land and the truth is more aptly put in the pen of an historian: "The queen of Spain, Isabella, was not a Jewess, but a Jew who made the voyage of discovery possible. I feel sure that it was not the queen of Spain who purchased the Jewels that the queen of Spain purchased, but the Jew who was the queen of Spain." The queen of Spain, Isabella, was not a Jewess, but a Jew who made the voyage of discovery possible. I feel sure that it was not the queen of Spain who purchased the Jewels that the queen of Spain purchased, but the Jew who was the queen of Spain.

But to contribute involuntarily to such an enterprise might not redound to the credit of the Jew and so I am bold to assert that without the Jew the trip would have been an impossibility. I do not mean to say that Columbus was a Jew, but that he was a Jew who made the voyage of discovery possible. I feel sure that it was not the queen of Spain who purchased the Jewels that the queen of Spain purchased, but the Jew who was the queen of Spain.

Forty years after the settlement of New Amsterdam the first Jew came. Jacob Barsinon, arrived on the ship "Pear Tree" on July 2, 1654, and in the same year a party of 23 came on the ship "St. Christina" either from Brazil or the West Indies. The Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant, did not desire Jews as residents of his colony and it was only after an appeal to the Dutch West India company that they were allowed to settle. Even then Stuyvesant objected and he finally permitted them to remain on condition that the poor among them shall not become a burden to the community, but be supported by their own nation. In 1655 Asser Levy applied to stand guard at other places, but he refused to pay and upon appeal to Holland was granted the right. This incident may seem insignificant but it looms large when we consider that at the earliest date the Jew desired to do his duty as a citizen and had to struggle to be allowed to do so. The first Jewish groups were granted July 14, 1654. But Stuyvesant was never favorable to the Jews and so 15 families moved in 1655 to Rhode Island, where Roger Williams gave them generous reception and proved his declaration that "I desire not the liberty to myself which I would not freely and impartially wish out to all the consciences of the world besides."

New Jewish centers. In 1652 the first Jewish congregation in New York rented a place of worship on Mill street and in 1655 was exchanged for a permanent synagogue at 121 1/2 Nassau street. The first assembly of New York passed an act that in the oath of migration of a Jew, the words "upon the true faith of a Christian" should be omitted and three days thereafter Daniel Moses de Costa became a citizen. On the occupation of New York by the British, rabbi Gedaliah Sheinman took the scrolls of the synagogue, and with many others fled to Philadelphia where he organized the first Jewish congregation. This rabbi was a power in his time as it evidenced

by the fact that he was a trustee of Columbia university from 1784 to 1815. John Jacob Astor learned the fur trade while in the employ of Hyman Levy for whom he worked till 1780, and Ephraim Hart, who was a state senator in 1810, was a partner of Asser Levy at the time of his death.

The first Jewish sermon delivered and printed in the United States was delivered in Spanish by rabbi Hayim Isaac Kariel at Newport, R. I., and this man was a close friend of Ezra Stiles, president of Yale. The first rule white child born in the colony of Georgia was a Jew, Isaac Minis.

The Jews in Texas. It is impossible to take up the first settlements in the various states so we will pass them and come to Texas in which we are probably most interested. The first Jewish settler was Samuel Israel, who came in 1821 and for services in the army of Texas during 1835-1837 received a bounty warrant in Polk county. Abraham C. Labat came from Charleston in 1831 and when Texas became a republic Jacob de Cordova settled in Galveston in 1837. Henry Castro, after having a country has been named, entered into a contract with president Houston to colonize west of the Medina and between 1842-1845 introduced over 1000 colonists; a remarkable number for that time. On the admission of Texas to the union David S. Kaufman was elected a congressman and served until his death in 1851.

The accusation has often been brought forward that the Jew is satisfied to remain here but that he will not fight for his country. Even so well known a Jew as Mark Twain made this assertion a few years ago in the Atlantic Monthly, but he was man enough to withdraw the statement and apologize when the facts were presented to him. But all are not as magnanimous as this and even today we find this calumny spread far and wide. What are the facts? I am sure they will interest us and prove beyond the peradventure of a doubt that the Jew has fought for his convictions at all times. I have already referred to the demand of Asser Levy to be permitted to do guard duty.

Jews as Revolutionary Soldiers. At the time of the revolution there were less than 2000 Jews in the colonies. They nevertheless contributed more than 100 soldiers to the cause of the most prominent of whom were Col. Isaac Frank and Col. David Salisbury. Francis Marmaduke Noah was not only an officer on the staff of Washington, but also contributed \$100,000 to the cause. The enthusiasm with which the Jew entered the struggle for freedom is best illustrated by a quotation from a letter of Jared Sparks. "At the outbreak of the revolutionary war a Mr. Gomez of New York proposed to a member of the continental congress that he form a company of soldiers for service. The member of congress remonstrated with Mr. Gomez on the score of his age, he being 65, but Mr. Gomez replied that he could stop a bullet as well as a young-

er man." These words need no comment from me. But war cannot be carried on simply with men, no matter how enthusiastic they may be. Money is recognized as the great elixir of war and I am sure that the late Mexican revolution would never have succeeded without the prestige and money of the Medvers. Washington had a hard battle to fight, but it would have been twice as hard and it not been for the assistance of a Jew.

Financed the War. Robert Morris is generally credited as the financial genius of the war, yet he depended much on a Jew of Philadelphia, Haym Solomon. It seems to be a peculiar trick of history that this famous financier should be unknown and his name seldom mentioned. He was born at Lissa, Poland, and came to New York in 1772. When the British occupied the city he was imprisoned as a sympathizer of the colonists and was a prisoner until 1778 when he escaped to Philadelphia. There he went into business and soon accumulated a fortune. Robert Morris in his diary mentions him not less than 75 times and he was the largest individual depositor in the Bank of North America, that Morris founded. It seems more than a coincidence that on the day Robert Morris deposited \$10,000 he received just exactly that sum from Solomon.

Throughout these troublous times the leaders of the revolution always found an open purse in Philadelphia and beyond them depended for a longer or shorter time on his generosity to carry their through periods of want. Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, Franklin, and Wilson, Meeker and Monroe were at various times his pensioners. Madison has written, "I have for some time been a pensioner on the favor of Haym Solomon, a Jew broker." All in all he gave not less than \$250,000 to the cause of the colonies and the senate committee of 1850 to whom the claims of this family were referred reported that "he gave a great assistance to the government by loans of money and advancing liberally of his means to sustain the men engaged in the struggle for independence at a time when the sinews of war were essential to success."

An Ungrateful Nation. It has been said that republics are ungrateful and I know of no case in which this is better exemplified. The claims of his heirs have never been paid and when a few years ago the heirs asked congress to have gold medals struck for them they would then relinquish all further claims, even this was not passed. Surely republics are ungrateful.

In the war of 1812, due to a divided sentiment in the country, a large number of Jews took part. The most prominent was Brig. Gen. Joseph Bloomfield who had charge of military district number four comprising Pennsylvania, Delaware and Western New Jersey. Bunker Hill monument was made possible by a gift of \$10,000 from Amos Lawrence of New England. This

sum was given with the proviso that another individual give a like amount and when Judah Touro, a Jew, of New Orleans heard this he sent his check for the amount and made possible the completion of the same in 1842. The Mexican war found about 60 soldiers of the Jewish faith actively engaged in the battle of their country; the most prominent of these was Major and surgeon David George Leon who twice received a vote of thanks from congress for his bravery.

Jews in Civil War. Probably no event in our history so stirred the hearts and souls of its citizenship as the civil war. The question of slavery divided father from son and brother from brother. One of the early leaders of freedom and one whose name became a battle cry for releasing the slaves, was John Brown. Among the fourteen men who fought with him at the battle of Bull Run in Kansas on June 2, 1856, were two Jews, Abraham Wiener and August Bondi. And when the time did come when brother took up arms against brother for a cause that each deemed true then the Jew was found at each battle and on both sides of the line of battle, rabbi Sabathai Morris was elected an officer of the Union League club of Philadelphia for his activity in the anti-slavery movement and rabbi David Etshorn, called from Europe to take charge of a congregation in Baltimore, thundered forth his message against slavery until he was driven from the city by his return prohibited under martial law.

The Jewish population of the United States at the time of the civil war was not more than 150,000, yet more than 8000 took part on both sides. The highest officer was brigadier general Frederick Kneller of Indianapolis. I do not wish to bore you with statistics still you will pardon my proving to you the number that rose above the rank and file. During this war there were eleven Jewish officers, 40 staff officers, nine generals, 18 colonels, 8 lieutenants, 40 majors, 205 captains, 325 lieutenants, 1000 privates and 25 sergeants. Surely a respectable showing for the followers of a single faith.

Jews in Spanish War. In the Spanish war there were over 2000 members of the Jewish faith enrolled. The first one to answer the call of president McKinley for volunteers was a Jew. Seven Jews made the dash up San Juan Hill with Colonel Roosevelt and the first Jew to fall in the attack on Manila was a Jew, sergeant Maurice Just of the First California volunteers, where over one hundred Jews were enrolled. I am glad that this is the last war of the union and I hope it will always be the last. The Jew is a patriot ready and willing to give his life for the truth as he sees it.

Let me now turn to the more peaceful pursuits of life and glance quickly over remaining facts. The first statue ever owned by the United States and which was the beginning of Statuary Hall was a bronze of Thomas Jefferson, made by a French Jew, David D'Angers and presented by an American Jew, Commodore Uriah H. Levy. I referred to the fact that the Jews were permitted to settle in New York on condition that they took care of their own poor. How well they have done so throughout all this time is known. But this truth may be best impressed by saying that there are 125 pauper Jews in the almshouse on Blackwell's island, a truly remarkable exhibit in view of a Jewish population exceeding 700,000 roundly in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. Of the vast number that apply to the United Hebrew charities of New York for assistance only two per cent are native born and Jewish dependents who have an ancestry of two generations are virtually unknown. Surely no better evidence can be given that the Jew comes here to make his home and to give an opportunity to do all in his power to earn an honest living for himself and his family.

Jews as Lawmakers. To our government the Jew has given four senators and twenty representatives. Mordcai M. Noah was consul to Tunis; R. DeKotto was consul to Bucharest; Simon Wolf was consul general to Egypt; Oscar Strauss was twice minister to Turkey and Solomon Hirsch occupied the same position. In fact since the European powers seem opposed to accepting a

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Not a drop of alcohol enters into their composition. A much better agent is used both for extracting and preserving the medicinal principles in them, viz.—pure triple-refined glycerine. This agent possesses intrinsic medicinal properties of its own, being a most valuable antiseptic and antiferment, nutritive and soothing demulcent.

Glycerine plays an important part in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery in the cure of indigestion, dyspepsia and weak stomach, attended by sour risings, heart-burn, foul breath, coated tongue, poor appetite, gnawing feeling in stomach, biliousness and kindred derangements of the stomach, liver and bowels.

Besides curing all the above distressing ailments, the "Golden Medical Discovery" is a specific for all diseases of the mucous membranes, as catarrh, whether of the nasal passages or of the stomach, bowels or other organs. Even in its ulcerative stages it will yield to this sovereign remedy if its use be persevered in. In Chronic Catarrh of the Nasal passages, it is well, while taking the "Golden Medical Discovery" for the necessary constitutional treatment, to cleanse the passages freely two or three times a day with Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. This thorough course of treatment generally cures even the worst cases.

In coughs and hoarseness caused by bronchial, throat and lung affections, except consumption, the "Golden Medical Discovery" is a most efficient remedy, especially in those obstinate, hang-on-coughs caused by irritation and congestion of the bronchial mucous membranes. The "Discovery" is not so good for acute coughs arising from sudden colds, nor must it be expected to cure consumption in its advanced stages—no medicine will do that—but for all the obstinate, chronic coughs, which, if neglected, or badly treated, lead up to consumption, it is the best medicine that can be taken.

To find out more about the above mentioned diseases and all about the body in health and disease, get the Common Sense Medical Adviser—the People's Schoolmaster in Medicine—revised and up-to-date book of 1000 pages—which treats of diseased conditions and the practical, successful treatment thereof. Cloth-bound sent post-paid on receipt of 31 cents in one-cent stamps to pay cost of mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

POSTAL TO ENTER TELEPHONE FIELD

Arranges to Lease Independent Lines and Will Reduce Tolls

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 22.—Confirmation was given today to reports that the Postal Telegraph company would enter the telephone field. Preparations, it is said, were begun six months ago for telephone service by the leasing of wires or agreements for an exchange of traffic with independent companies operating on the Pacific coast. Radical reductions in rates are planned, according to the Postal officials.

From San Francisco to Sacramento the rate will be 25 cents for 10 minutes; from San Francisco to Reno, 50 cents for the first minute; from San Francisco to Salt Lake City, \$1.50 for five minutes. From Salt Lake to Reno, the charge will be \$1 for the first minute; from Salt Lake to Sacramento, \$1.25.

STOCK PROMOTERS MAKE PLEA OF GUILT

New York, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Plea of guilty were made today by Sherrill C. Burr, president; Eugene H. Burr, secretary-treasurer; Chas. H. Tobey, vice president; and Edward Wesley Preston, an official of the Burr Bros., stock promoters. The offices here were raided November 20, 1910, by postal authorities, the Burr brothers being charged with using the mails in a scheme to defraud investors.

Between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000 were obtained by Burr brothers from its sales of worthless mining and oil stock, netting a profit to the defendants.

ants of \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000, according to announcement made by the postal inspectors who raided the establishment, November 20, 1910.

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J. G. Blake, general superintendent for the Pacific division of the Postal company, stated today that the company's plans for telephone service throughout the coast region were rapidly nearing completion and that the service would be inaugurated at an early date.

PACKERS' ATTORNEYS PRESENT STATEMENT

Attorney For Morris & Co., Discusses Case of His Clients

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 22.—When the trial of the indicted gold packers was resumed here today the defendants' counsel continued the presentation of their opening statements to the jury. The packers were indicted for alleged violations of the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Attorney M. W. Borders, representing the interests of Morris & Co., briefly discussed the case of his clients.

PRESIDENT ESTRADA OF ECUADOR IS DEAD

Quayquil, Ecuador, Dec. 22.—President of Ecuador, Sr. Francisco Estrada, died here suddenly at midnight.

1911 Gold Coins For Christmas

We have just received a shipment of five and ten dollar gold pieces, coinage of 1911, also a shipment of crisp, new One Dollar bills. These make very acceptable Christmas presents.

El Paso Bank and Trust Company

Shelden Hotel Block.

Full measure at Southwestern Fuel Co.

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To Sell the House Of Mystery and Leave Country



On the top, from left to right, is Miss Emily Grigsby, the ward of the late Charles T. Yerkes's, the Chicago traction magnate, who is selling out the contents of her magnificent mansion, situated on Park avenue, New York, as the last link that binds her to America. On the right is a view of the section of the magnificent library in which there are 11,000 volumes of rare editions, containing the library of Baron Munchausen. Below is the study, showing the great collection of curios gathered from all parts of the world. After the sale Miss Grigsby intends to make her permanent home in England and the continent. The most interesting of all the treasures in the house is a stool embossed with purple velvet. Worked in the top of it is this mark: "E. R. VII." It is a souvenir given to Miss Grigsby by King Edward of England.

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Vapo-resolene

ESTABLISHED 1870 A simple, safe and effective treatment for bronchial troubles, avoiding drugs. Vapo-resolene stops the paroxysms of Whooping Cough, croup, catarrh of the throat, etc. It is a fact to suffer from Asthma. The air breathed strongly catarrhs the lungs, with every breath, makes breathing easy, soothes the sore throat and stops the cough, preventing further signs. It is invaluable to mothers with young children.

Send in postal for descriptive booklet.

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Try Coughs and Asthma. Vapo-resolene stops the paroxysms of Whooping Cough, croup, catarrh of the throat, etc. It is a fact to suffer from Asthma. The air breathed strongly catarrhs the lungs, with every breath, makes breathing easy, soothes the sore throat and stops the cough, preventing further signs. It is invaluable to mothers with young children.

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